

Foreword

How Forecasts Are Made

Most of the annual streamflow in the Western United States originates as snowfall that has accumulated high in the mountains during winter and early spring. As the snowpack accumulates, hydrologists estimate the runoff that will occur when it melts. Predictions are based on careful measurements of snow water equivalent at selected index points. Precipitation, temperature, soil moisture and antecedent streamflow data are combined with snowpack data to prepare runoff forecasts. Streamflow forecasts are coordinated by Soil Conservation Service and National Weather Service hydrologists. This report presents a comprehensive picture of water supply outlook conditions for areas dependent upon surface runoff. It includes selected streamflow forecasts, summarized snowpack and precipitation data, reservoir storage data, and narratives describing current conditions.

Snowpack data are obtained by using a combination of manual and automated measurement methods. Manual readings of snow depth and water equivalent are taken at locations called snow courses on a monthly or semi-monthly schedule during the winter. In addition, snow water equivalent, precipitation and temperature are monitored on a daily basis and transmitted via radio telemetry to central data collection facilities. Both monthly and daily data are used to project snowmelt runoff.

An error is associated with each forecast, and this error decreases as the season progresses and more data becomes available. To express the range of error that can be expected, "most probable" forecasts are issued along with a range representing a "reasonable minimum" and a "reasonable maximum". Actual streamflow can be expected to fall within this range in eight out of ten years. Additionally two specific scenarios are provided based on the assumption that subsequent precipitation will be "wet", above average, or "dry", below average.

For More Information

Copies of Monthly Water Supply Outlook Reports and other reports may be obtained from the states listed below. An annual snow survey data summary is published by the Soil Conservation Service for each of the western states. Historical snow survey data may be obtained at those same offices.

STATE	ADDRESS
Alaska	201 East 9th Ave., Suite 300, Anchorage, AK 99501-3687
Arizona	201 East Indianola Ave., Suite 200, Phoenix, AZ 85012
Colorado	2490 West 26th Ave., Building A, 3rd floor, Denver, CO 80211
Idaho	3244 Elder Street, Room 124, Boise, ID 83705
Montana	10 East Babcock, Room 443, Federal Building, Bozeman, MT 59715
Nevada	1201 Terminal Way, Room 219, Reno, NV 89502
New Mexico	517 Gold Ave. S.W., Room 3301, Albuquerque, NM 87102-3157
Oregon	1220 Southwest 3rd Ave., Room 1640, Portland, OR 97204
Utah	4402 Federal Building, 125 South State Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84147
Washington	W. 920 Riverside, Room 360, Spokane, WA 99201-1080
Wyoming	Federal Building, 100 "B" Street, Room 3124, Casper, WY 82601

In addition to state reports, a Water Supply Outlook for the Western United States is published by the Soil Conservation Service and National Weather Service monthly, January through May. Reports may be obtained from the Soil Conservation Service, West National Technical Center, 511 Northwest Broadway, Room 248, Portland, OR 97209-3489.

Water supply reports published by other agencies:

California — Snow Survey Branch, California Department of Water Resources, P.O. Box 388, Sacramento, CA 95802; British Columbia — The Ministry of Environment, Water Investigations Branch, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, British Columbia, V8V 1X5; Yukon Territory — Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, Northern Operations Branch, 200 Range Road, Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, Y1A3V1; Alberta, Environment Technical Services Division, 9820 106th St., Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2J6.

New Mexico Water Supply Outlook

and

Federal — State — Private Cooperative Snow Surveys

Issued by

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Chief
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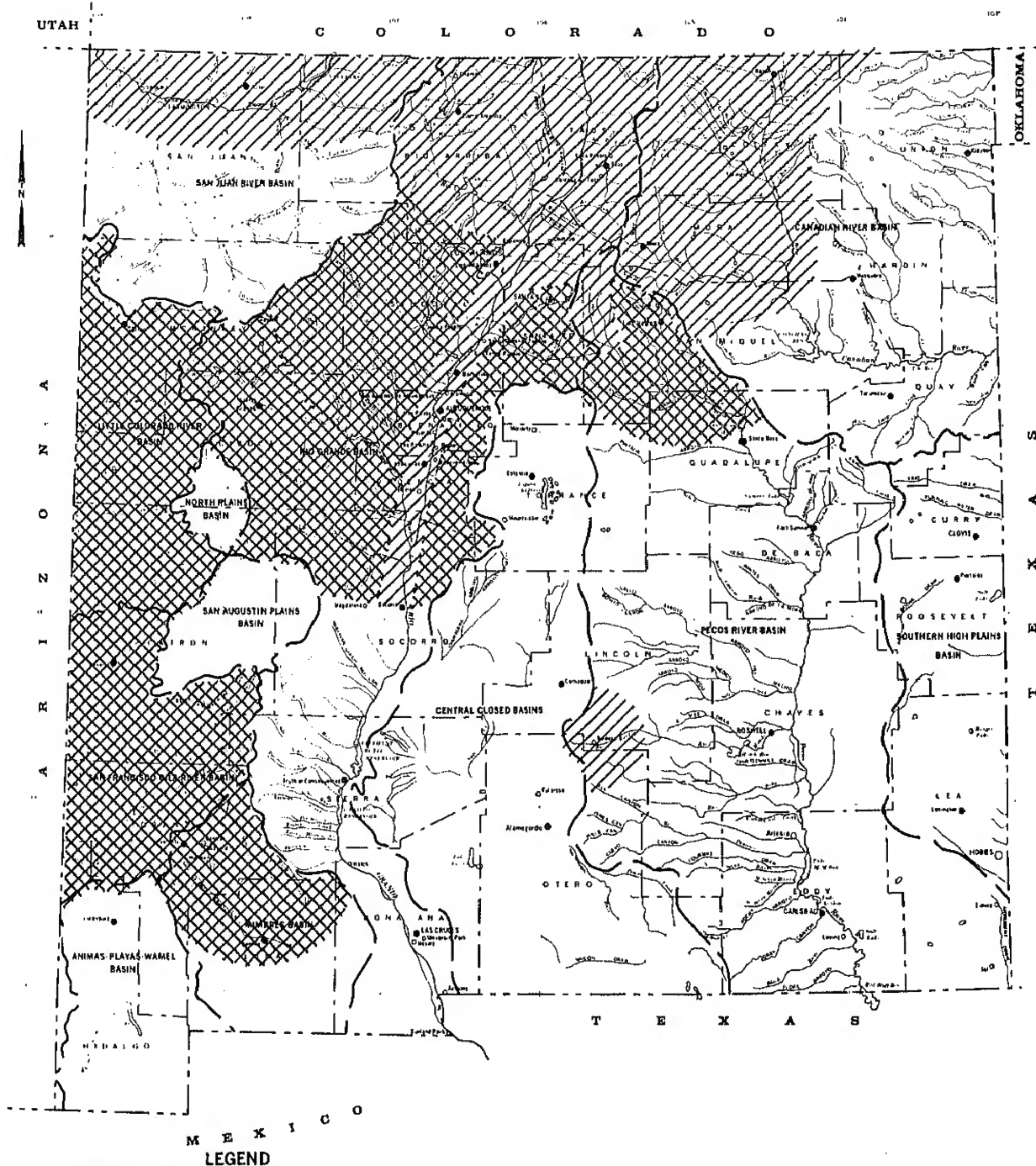
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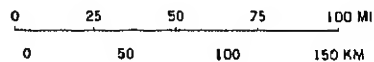
"Programs and assistance of the United States Department of Agriculture are available without regard to race, creed, color, sex, age, or national origin."

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STREAMFLOW PROSPECTS NEW MEXICO



SOURCE: Data compiled by SCS
Field Personnel.



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GENERAL OUTLOOK

SUMMARY

THE WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK FOR NEW MEXICO HAS DECLINED AGAIN THIS MONTH. MOST FORECASTS IN NORTHERN NEW MEXICO, INCLUDING THE RIO GRANDE MAINSTEM, MOVED INTO THE BELOW AVERAGE RANGE. THE SOUTHERN SANGRE DE CRISTO'S, JEMEZ RIVER, AND PORTIONS OF THE PECOS RIVER BASIN MOVED INTO THE MUCH BELOW AVERAGE RANGE. BELOW AVERAGE SNOWPACK AND EARLY MELTOUT HAS COMBINED TO CAUSE BELOW NORMAL WATER SUPPLIES DURING THE IRRIGATION SEASON ON MOST STREAMS WITHOUT RESERVOIR STORAGE FACILITIES. AN IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING IMPROVEMENTS IN FUTURE WATER SUPPLY INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION IS INCLUDED IN THIS REPORT. THIS IS THE FINAL NEW MEXICO WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK REPORT FOR THIS SEASON.

SNOWPACK

Snowpack conditions continued to decline during April. Meltout has occurred below 10,500 feet elevation in the northern mountains. The remaining snowpack above 10,500 feet is much below average.

PRECIPITATION

Precipitation in the mountains of New Mexico, for the month of April, ranged from no measurable precipitation at reporting stations in the Little Colorado River Basin to 30 percent of average in the Canadian River Basin. Year to date accumulations for the water year range from 54 percent of average in the Mimbres River Basin to 91 percent of average in the Canadian River Basin.

RESERVOIRS

At the end of April, reservoir storage in the thirteen westwide reservoirs in New Mexico is reported to be 218 percent of average. Storage, by basins, ranges from 74 percent of average in the Pecos River Basin to 310 percent of average in the Rio Grande Basin.

STREAMFLOW

Streamflow for the month of April is reported to be near 300 percent of median on the Rio Grande River below Taos Junction Bridge and near 200 percent of median on the Pecos River near Pecos. The above normal flows during April are a result of earlier than normal melting of the snowpack. Flow during April on the Gila River near Gila is reported to be 52 percent of median.

***** IMPORTANT NOTICE !!! *****

A recent evaluation of the Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting Program interviewed 200 users of the forecasts. We learned that:

- Users who got their information by accessing our computer were very satisfied;
- Users who depended on the monthly Water Supply Outlook Report needed the information much earlier in the month; and
- The reports contained more information than many users needed.

In summary, we are producing a report that is not doing the job for most users. And we are spending a lot of money on the report.

The state-wide WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK REPORT will be discontinued. We are proposing three actions for the next water year to better meet your needs:

FIRST, the users' direct access of forecasts by computer will be improved. We will provide better instructions and self-training materials. Also, District Conservationists who have computers will be encouraged to access forecasts and distribute local reports to those users who do not have computer facilities.

SECOND, the SCS state office will prepare individual forecast reports for the major river basins in the state. They will be the same as the reports available on the computer. Users who request it will be on a mailing list to receive one or more of the reports. They will be printed and mailed within a day or two after the basin forecast is completed and available on the computer.

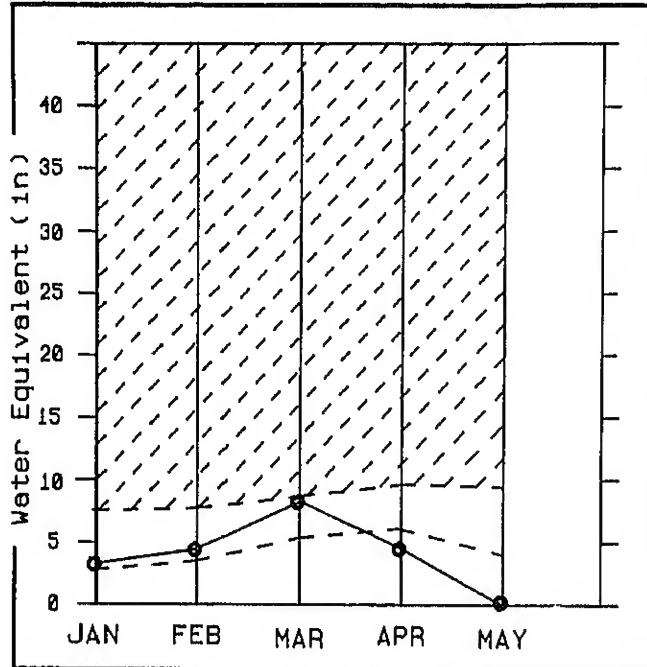
THIRD, for users who are interested in the forecasts for their historical value rather than for decision-making, an annual summary will be provided. A West-Wide Report will continue to be available, published jointly with the National Weather Service.

This summer and fall will be spent developing the details of these new procedures. You will be informed prior to next water year's reports, and new mailing lists will be prepared.

Please call us or write if you have any questions.

Canadian River Basin

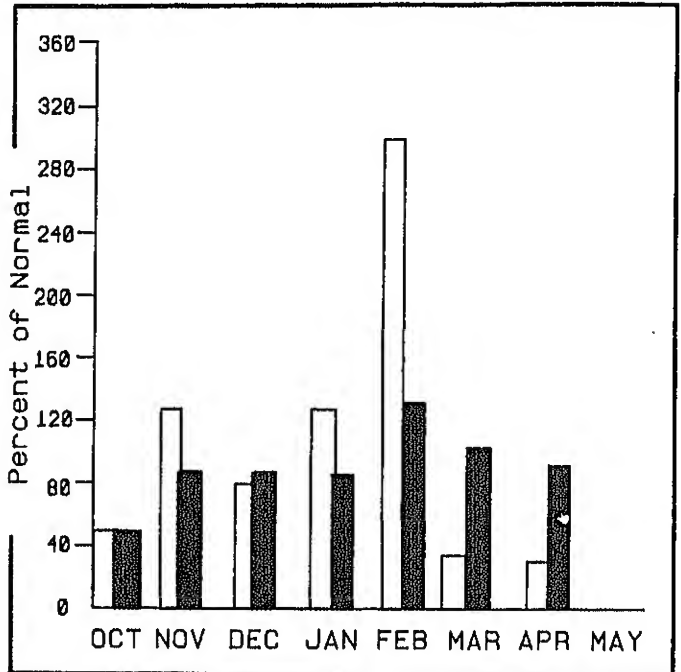
Mountain snowpack* (inches)



*Based on selected stations

Maximum Zzzz Average -----
Minimum Zzzz Current ●-----●

Precipitation* (percent of normal)



*Based on selected stations

Monthly precipitation (white bar) Year to date precipitation (black bar)

WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

Much below average precipitation over the snowpack area of the basin during April did little to slow the rapid decline of the snowpack. Streamflow volume forecasts range from 72 percent of average on the Canadian River near Sanchez to 88 percent of average on the Vermejo River near Dawson.

For more information contact your local Soil Conservation Service office.

CANADIAN RIVER BASIN

STREAMFLOW FORECASTS

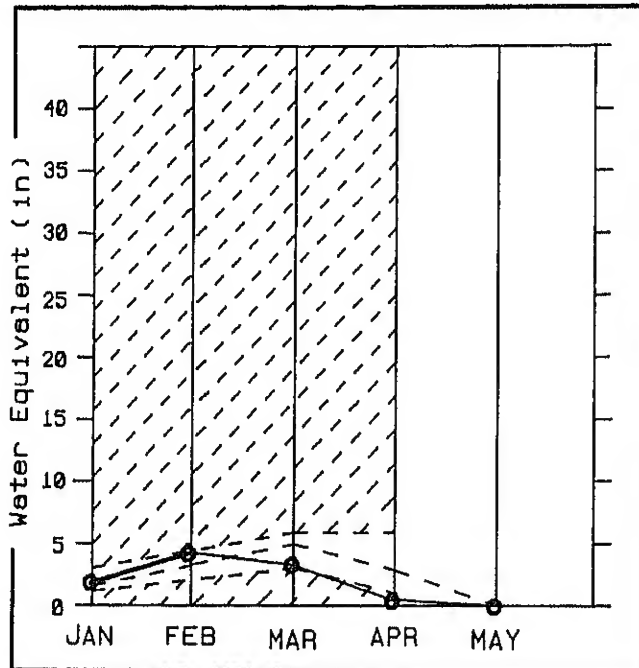
FORECAST POINT	FORECAST PERIOD	MOST PROBABLE (1000AF)	MOST PROBABLE (% AVG.)	WET SUBS. (1000AF)	DRY SUBS. (1000AF)	REAS. MAX. (1000AF)	REAS. MIN. (1000AF)	25 YR. AVG. (1000AF)
VERMEJO RIVER nr Dawson	MAR-JUN	4.5	88			7.7	2.5	5.1
CIMARRON RIVER blw Eagle Nest Dam 2	MAR-JUN	8.0	82			11.2	4.8	9.8
CIMARRON RIVER nr Cimarron 2	MAR-JUN	12.0	85			17.0	7.0	14.2
MORA RIVER nr Golondrinas	MAR-JUN	8.5	73			15.5	1.5	11.7
CANADIAN RIVER nr Sanchez 2	MAR-JUN	39	72			67	11.5	54

RESERVOIR STORAGE		(1000AF)			WATERSHED SNOWPACK ANALYSIS			
RESERVOIR	USEABLE :	** USEABLE STORAGE **			WATERSHED	NO.	THIS YEAR AS % OF	
	CAPACITY:	THIS	LAST			COURSES	-----	
	:	YEAR	YEAR	AVG.		AVG'D	LAST YR.	AVERAGE
CONCHAS	330.0	249.0	283.0	128.7	CANADIAN RIVER BASIN	1	0	0

WET SUBS. and DRY SUBS. represent 130 and 70 percent subsequent precipitation events respectively.
 REAS. MAX. and REAS. MIN. forecasts are for 10% and 90% exceedance levels with the exception of (1) below.
 (1) - REAS. MAX. and REAS. MIN. forecasts are for 5% and 95% exceedance levels.
 (2) - Corrected for upstream diversions or changes in reservoir storage.

Little Colorado River Basin

Mountain snowpack* (inches)



*Based on selected stations

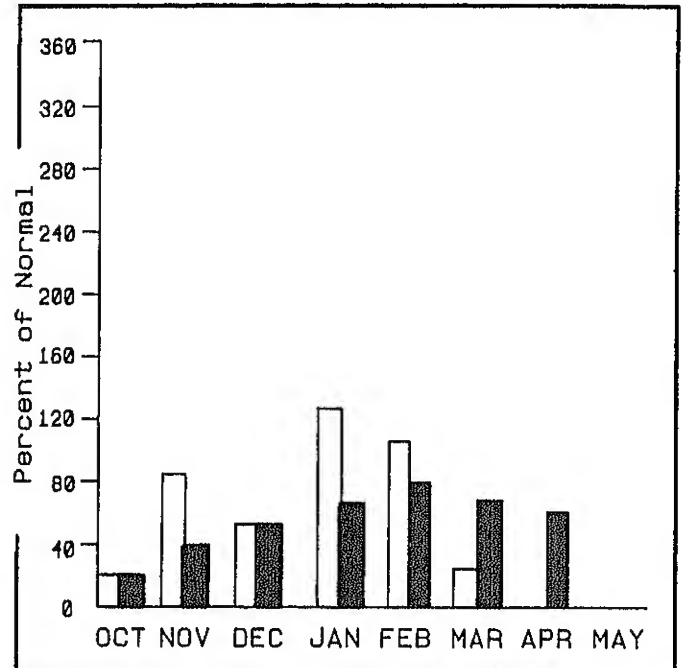
Maximum [diagonal lines]

Average [dashed line]

Minimum [hatched area]

Current [solid line with dots]

Precipitation* (percent of normal)



*Based on selected stations

Monthly precipitation [white bar] Year to date precipitation [dark bar]

WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

No forecasts are issued for the basin May 1. Dry conditions prevailed over the basin again during April. No measurable precipitation was reported during the month.

For more information contact your local Soil Conservation Service office.

LITTLE COLORADO RIVER BASIN

STREAMFLOW FORECASTS

FORECAST POINT	FORECAST PERIOD	MOST PROBABLE (1000AF)	MOST PROBABLE (% AVG.)	WET SUBS. (1000AF)	DRY SUBS. (1000AF)	REAS. MAX. (1000AF)	REAS. MIN. (1000AF)	25 YR. AVG. (1000AF)
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LITTLE COLORADO RIVER BASIN

RESERVOIR STORAGE (1000AF)

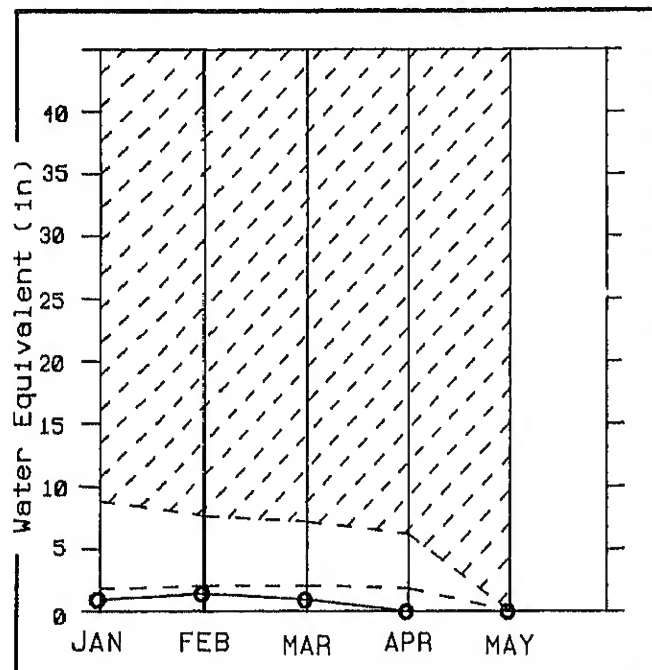
WATERSHED SNOWPACK ANALYSIS

RESERVOIR	USEABLE CAPACITY:	** USEABLE STORAGE ** THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR	AVG.	WATERSHED	NO. COURSES AVG'D	THIS YEAR AS % OF LAST YR. AVERAGE
					LITTLE COLORADO RIVER BAS	0	0 0

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Mimbres River Basin

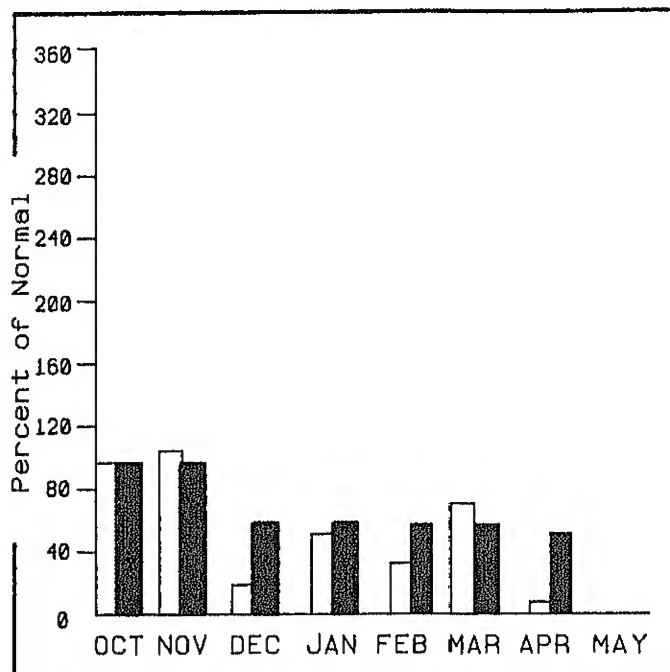
Mountain snowpack* (inches)



*Based on selected stations

Maximum [diagonal lines] Average [dashed line]
Minimum [horizontal lines] Current [solid line with circles]

Precipitation* (percent of normal)



*Based on selected stations

Monthly precipitation [white bar] Year to date precipitation [black bar]

WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

No forecasts are issued for the basin for May 1.
April was another dry month with only 8 percent of average precipitation reported during the month.

For more information contact your local Soil Conservation Service office.

MIMBRES RIVER BASIN

STREAMFLOW FORECASTS

FORECAST POINT	FORECAST PERIOD	MOST PROBABLE (1000AF)	MOST PROBABLE (% AVG.)	WET SUBS. (1000AF)	DRY SUBS. (1000AF)	REAS. MAX. (1000AF)	REAS. MIN. (1000AF)	25 YR. AVG. (1000AF)
MIMBRES RIVER BASIN								
RESERVOIR STORAGE (1000AF)				WATERSHED SNOWPACK ANALYSIS				
RESERVOIR	USEABLE : CAPACITY:	** USEABLE STORAGE ** THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR	AVG.	WATERSHED	NO. COURSES AVG'D	THIS YEAR AS % OF LAST YR. AVERAGE	
					MIMBRES RIVER BASIN	1	0	0

WET SUBS. and DRY SUBS. represent 130 and 70 percent subsequent precipitation events respectively.

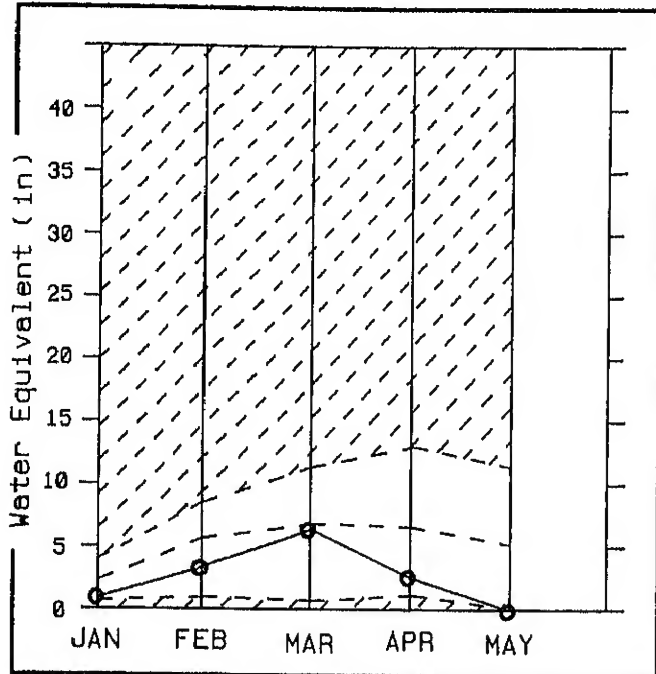
REAS. MAX. and REAS. MIN. forecasts are for 10% and 90% exceedance levels with the exception of (1) below.

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(2) - Corrected for upstream diversions or changes in reservoir storage.

Pecos River Basin

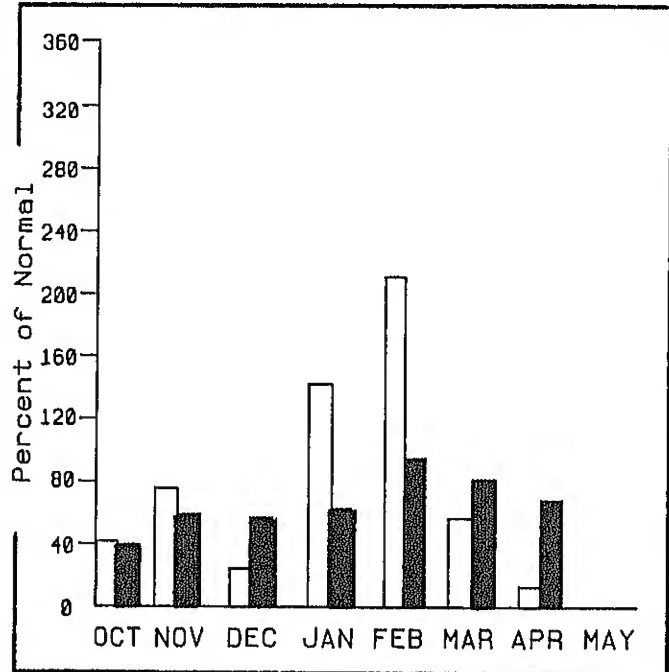
Mountain snowpack* (inches)



*Based on selected stations

Maximum Average
Minimum Current

Precipitation* (percent of normal)



*Based on selected stations

Monthly precipitation Year to date precipitation

WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

Streamflow volume forecasts in the basin moved into the below normal to much below normal range. Forecasts range from 67 percent of average in the upper basin to 81 percent of average in the Ruidoso area of the lower basin.

For more information contact your local Soil Conservation Service office.

PECOS RIVER BASIN

STREAMFLOW FORECASTS

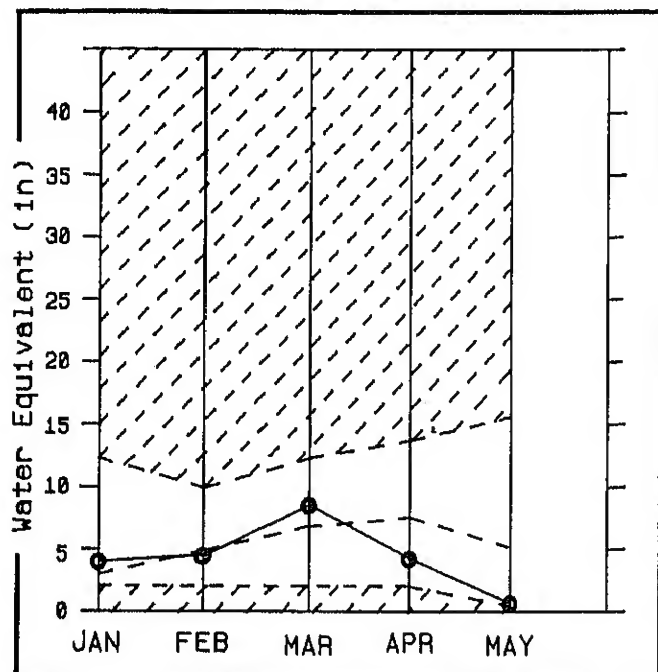
FORECAST POINT	FORECAST PERIOD	MOST PROBABLE (1000AF)	MOST PROBABLE (% AVG.)	WET SUBS. (1000AF)	DRY SUBS. (1000AF)	REAS. MAX. (1000AF)	REAS. MIN. (1000AF)	25 YR. AVG. (1000AF)
GALLINAS CREEK nr Montezuma	MAR-JUL	57.0	67			17.0	2.1	7.5
PECOS RIVER nr Pecos	MAR-JUL	38	78			64	11.5	49
PECOS RIVER nr Anton Chico	MAR-JUL	34	67			62	14.1	51
RIO RUIDOSO at Hollywood	MAR-JUN	57.0	81			8.3	1.7	6.2

RESERVOIR STORAGE		(1000AF)			WATERSHED SNOWPACK ANALYSIS			
RESERVOIR	USEABLE CAPACITY	** USEABLE STORAGE **	THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR	AVG.	WATERSHED	NO. COURSES AVG'D	THIS YEAR AS % OF LAST YR. AVERAGE
LAKE AVALON	6.0	1.2	1.2	1.6		PECOS RIVER BASIN	2	0 0
LAKE McMILLAN	34.0	0.0	8.7	12.6				
SANTA ROSA	447.0	50.0	113.0	38.0				
SUMNER	102.0	18.1	43.3	43.5				

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Rio Grande Basin

Mountain snowpack* (inches)



*Based on selected stations

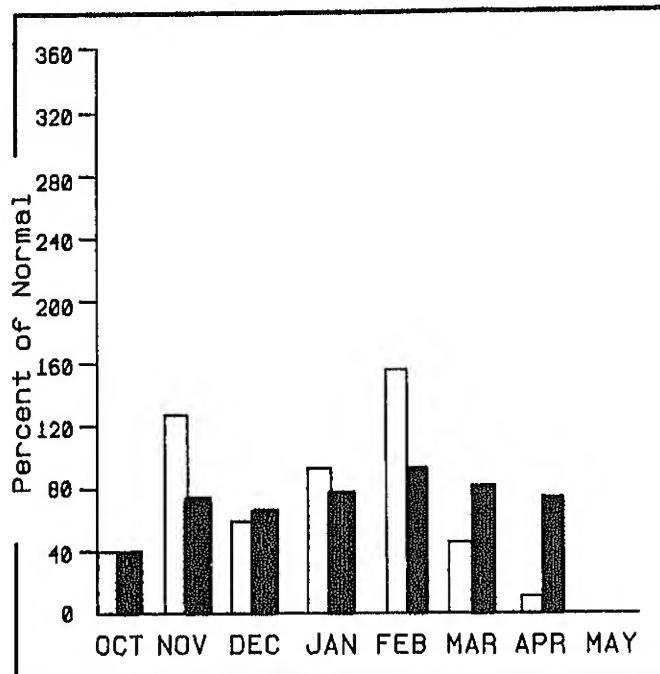
Maximum [hatched pattern]

Average [dashed line]

Minimum [dotted line]

Current [solid line with circles]

Precipitation* (percent of normal)



*Based on selected stations

Monthly precipitation [white bar] Year to date precipitation [black bar]

WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

Streamflow volume forecasts in the basin range from 50 percent of average on the Santa Fe River near Santa Fe to 88 percent of average on the Rio Grande near Del Norte, Colorado.

For more information contact your local Soil Conservation Service office.

RIO GRANDE BASIN

STREAMFLOW FORECASTS

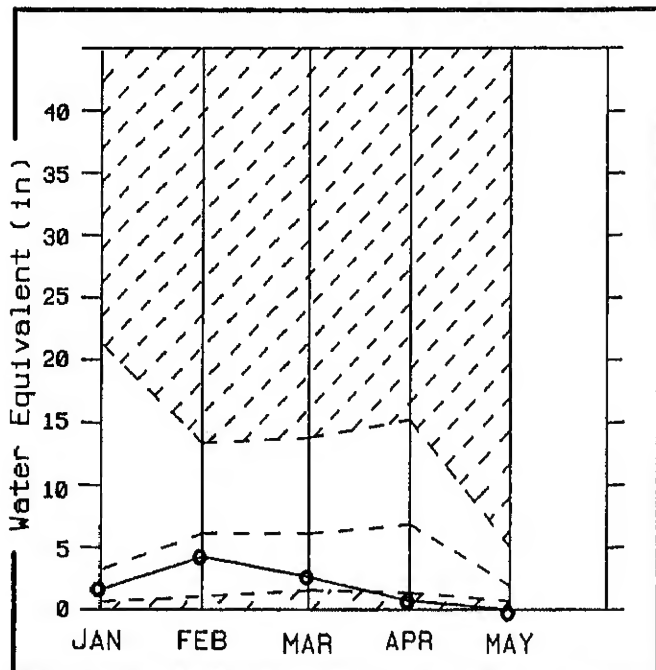
FORECAST POINT	FORECAST PERIOD	MOST PROBABLE (1000AF)	MOST PROBABLE (% AVG.)	WET SUBS. (1000AF)	DRY SUBS. (1000AF)	REAS. MAX. (1000AF)	REAS. MIN. (1000AF)	25 YR. AVG. (1000AF)
RIO GRANDE nr Del Norte 2	APR-SEP	450	88			550	350	510
CONEJOS RIVER blw Piatoro Res 2	APR-SEP	57	86			68	46	66
CONEJOS RIVER nr Mogote 2	APR-SEP	175	86			220	130	204
COSTILLA CREEK nr Costilla 2	MAR-JUL	18.0	82			27	9.0	22
RED RIVER bl Fish Hatchery nr Questa	MAR-JUL	28	85			44	12.2	33
RIO MONDO near Valdez	MAR-JUL	12.0	74			22	4.8	16.3
RIO PUEBLO de TAOS nr Taos	MAR-JUL	11.5	73			17.0	6.0	15.7
RIO PUEBLO de TAOS bl Los Cordovas	MAR-JUL	22	69			45	9.2	32
RIO CHAMA blw El Vado Dam 2	MAR-JUL	180	84			270	111	227
SANTA CRUZ RIVER at Cundiyo	MAR-JUL	11.0	71			20	4.4	15.6
RIO GRANDE at Otowi Bridge 2	MAR-JUL	545	81			1080	410	672
SANTA FE RIVER nr Santa Fe 2	MAR-JUL	2.0	50			4.0	0.8	4.0
JEMEZ RIVER nr Jemez	MAR-JUL	27	61			42	12.0	44
RIO GRANDE FLOODWAY at San Marcial 2	MAR-JUL	380	78			815	230	485

RESERVOIR STORAGE (1000AF)					WATERSHED SNOWPACK ANALYSIS			
RESERVOIR	USEABLE : CAPACITY:	** USEABLE STORAGE **	THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR	WATERSHED	NO. COURSES AVG'D	THIS YEAR AS % OF LAST YR.	AVERAGE
ABIQUIU	554.5	182.5	182.5	38.9	RIO GRANDE BASIN	5	21	10
CABALLO	331.5	179.0	256.7	70.8				
COCHITI	502.3	80.5	88.6	42.4				
COSTILLA	16.0	6.5	7.0	6.8				
EL VADO	186.3	169.0	168.0	71.8				
ELEPHANT BUTTE	2065.0	1992.3	2074.3	536.0				
HERON	400.0	370.0	345.0	194.7				

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San Francisco-Gila River Basin

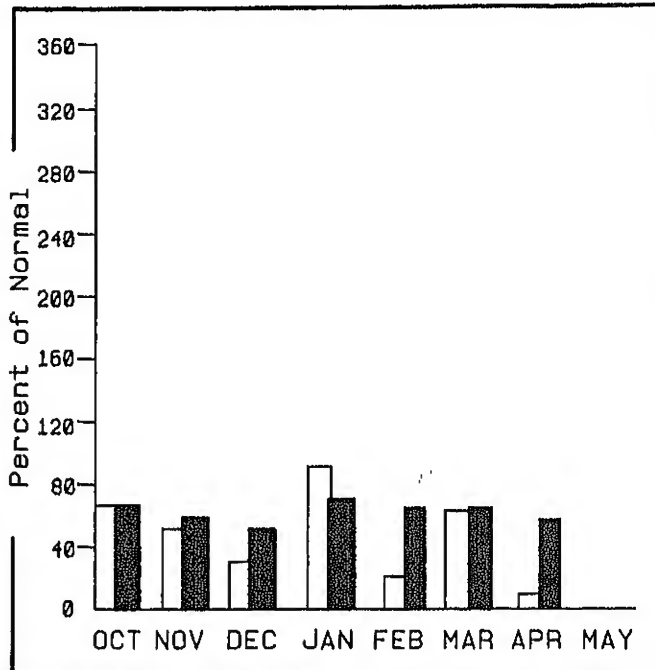
Mountain snowpack* (inches)



*Based on selected stations

Maximum Average
Minimum Current

Precipitation* (percent of normal)



*Based on selected stations

Monthly precipitation Year to date precipitation

WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

No forecasts are issued in the basin May 1.
Precipitation in the basin during April was only 9 percent of average. Streamflow on the Gila River near Gila for the month of April was 52 percent of median.

For more information contact your local Soil Conservation Service office.

SAN FRANCISCO - GILA RIVER BASIN

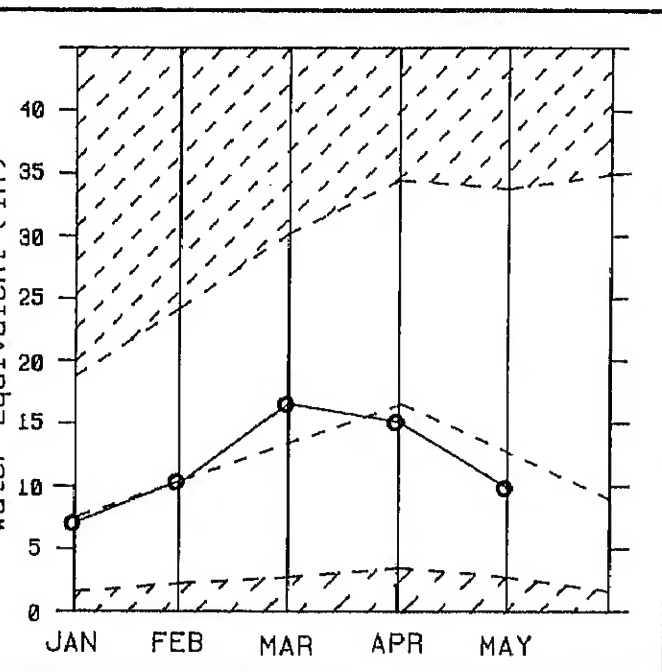
STREAMFLOW FORECASTS

FORECAST POINT	FORECAST PERIOD	MOST PROBABLE (1000AF)	MOST PROBABLE (% AVG.)	WET SUBS. (1000AF)	DRY SUBS. (1000AF)	REAS. MAX. (1000AF)	REAS. MIN. (1000AF)	25 YR. AVG. (1000AF)
SAN FRANCISCO - GILA RIVER BASIN								
RESERVOIR STORAGE (1000AF)				WATERSHED SNOWPACK ANALYSIS				
RESERVOIR	USEABLE : CAPACITY:	** USEABLE STORAGE **	THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR	AVG.	WATERSHED	NO. COURSES AVG'D	THIS YEAR AS % OF LAST YR. AVERAGE
						SAN FRANCISCO - GILA RIVE	3	0 0

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San Juan River Basin

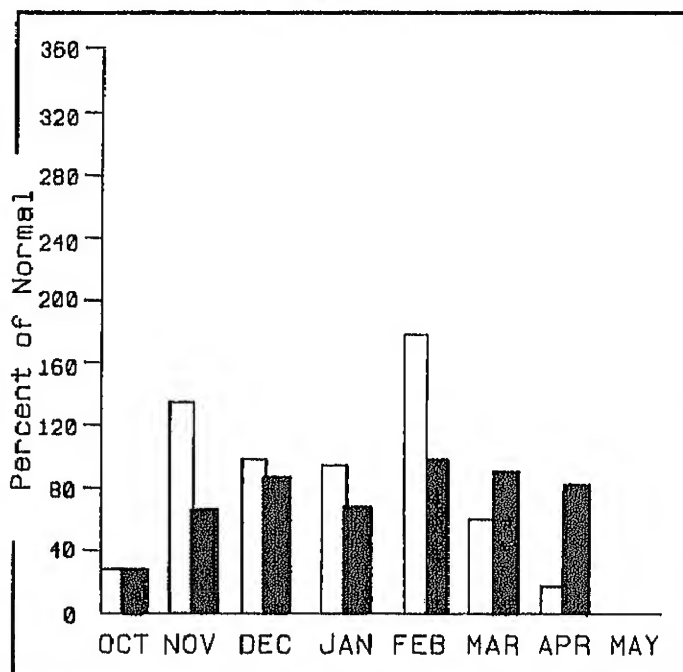
Mountain snowpack* (inches)



*Based on selected stations

Maximum [diagonal hatching] Average [dashed line]
 Minimum [diagonal hatching] Current [solid line with circles]

Precipitation* (percent of normal)



*Based on selected stations

Monthly precipitation [white bar] Year to date precipitation [black bar]

WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

Streamflow volume forecasts in the basin moved into the below normal range. Forecasts range from 70 percent of average on the La Plata River at Hesperus, Colorado to 72 percent of average on the Animas River at Durango, Colorado.

For more information contact your local Soil Conservation Service office.

SAN JUAN RIVER BASIN

STREAMFLOW FORECASTS

FORECAST POINT	FORECAST PERIOD	MOST PROBABLE (1000AF)	MOST PROBABLE (% AVG.)	WET SUBS. (1000AF)	DRY SUBS. (1000AF)	REAS. MAX. (1000AF)	REAS. MIN. (1000AF)	25 YR. AVG. (1000AF)
SAN JUAN RIVER nr Archuleta 2	APR-JUL	540	71			745	370	764
ANIMAS RIVER at Durango	APR-SEP	350	72			400	300	486
LA PLATA RIVER at Hesperus	APR-SEP	19.0	70			24	13.9	27

RESERVOIR STORAGE (1000AF)				WATERSHED SNOWPACK ANALYSIS		
RESERVOIR	USEABLE : CAPACITY :	** USEABLE STORAGE ** THIS LAST : YEAR YEAR AVG.			NO. COURSES AVG'D	THIS YEAR AS % OF LAST YR. AVERAGE
NAVAJO	1696.0	1300.0	1114.0	926.0	SAN JUAN RIVER BASIN 12	93 55

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SNOW DATA MEASUREMENTS

MAY 1989

SNOW COURSE	ELEVATION	DATE	SNOW DEPTH	WATER CONTENT	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE 1961-85
NEW MEXICO						
BATEMAN SNOTEL	9800	5/01/89	---	.0	5.4	11.7
BATEMAN	9800	4/26/89	0	.0	5.0	10.7
CHAMA DIVIDE	7750	4/26/89	0	.0	--	.0
CHAMITA SNOTEL	8500	5/01/89	---	.0	.0	.4
CHAMITA	8500	4/26/89	0	.0	.0	1.6
FRISCO DIVIDE SNOTEL	8000	5/01/89	---	.0	.0	.0
GALLEGOS PEAK SNOTEL	9500	5/01/89	---	.0	.0	8.8
HOPEWELL SNOTEL	10000	5/01/89	---	.8	5.4	14.8
HOPEWELL LAKE	10000	4/27/89	9	3.6	10.6	16.0
LOOKOUT MTN SNOTEL	8150	5/01/89	---	.0	.0	.0
NORTH COSTILLA SNTL	10600	5/01/89	---	.0	.0	3.8
PANCHUELA SNOTEL	8300	5/01/89	---	.0	.0	4.7
PANCHUELA	8300	5/01/89	0	.0	.0	.9
QUEMAZON SNOTEL	9300	5/01/89	---	.0	.0	3.4
RED R PASS #2 SNOTEL	9800	5/01/89	---	.0	.0	3.0
RED RIVER PASS #2	9800	4/27/89	0	.0	.0	3.6
RIO EN MEDIO	10300	4/27/89	0	.0	1.4	5.4
SAN ANTONIO SINK	9200	4/27/89	0	.0	--	3.1
SEÑORITA DVD #2 SNTL	8600	5/01/89	---	.0	.0	.6
SIGNAL PEAK SNOTEL	8360	5/01/89	---	.0	.0	.0
SILVER CREEK SNOTEL	9070	5/01/89	---	.0	.7	6.8
TAOS POWDERHORN	11250	4/26/89	40	19.2	--	--

The Following Organizations Cooperate With The Soil Conservation Service In Snow Survey Work

State

New Mexico State Engineer
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
Interstate Stream Commission

Federal

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Soil Conservation Service
Forest Service
U.S. Department of Commerce
NOAA, National Weather Service
U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Geological Survey
National Park Service
Bureau of Indian Affairs
U.S. Department of Defense
Army Corps of Engineers
Los Alamos National Laboratory

Local

Public Service Company of New Mexico
City of Las Vegas
Village of Ruidoso
Zuni Tribe
Bluewater-Toltec Irrigation District
Costilla Land Company
Navajo Tribe
Ramah Valley Acequia

Private

Moreno Ranch
Vermejo Ranch

Other organizations and individuals furnish information for the snow survey reports.
Their cooperation is gratefully acknowledged.